



**RICHARD F.
ALLEN**

COMMISSIONER

Reentry Update

MARCH 2008

ADOC Mission Statement

The mission of the Alabama Department of Corrections is to confine, manage and provide rehabilitative programs for convicted felons in a safe, secure and humane environment, utilizing professionals who are committed to public safety and to the positive re-entry of offenders into society.

"Alabama Department of Public Safety" Obtaining a Personal Identification Card or a Drivers License

The ADOC in collaboration with the Dept. of Public Safety has been working to assist ex-offenders with obtaining a personal identification cards and a drivers license. Effective February 12, 2008, the Dept. of Public Safety will accept as a secondary document the DOC inmate release identification card and prison release papers, and felony ID card. These cards must be issued by both local, state and federal correctional and law enforcement entities. This will allow for greater success in obtaining and securing a job that will assist with basic living needs and ultimately a higher quality of life.

KUDOS to the Dept. of Public Safety

"Reentry Program Update"

"Reentry begins at the point of entry". Nationally, the term reentry from a Criminal Justice perspective has received an enormous amount of attention. A huge emphasis is being placed on "discharge planning", "aftercare programs", and "pre release". All of which are synonymous with preparing an incarcerated offender for reentry back into the community. The Department of Corrections is making great strides in this area to develop a program that assists with this process. The proposed reentry model currently under development aims to: (1)increase public safety; (2)decrease prison overcrowding and recidivism rates; (3)reunite parents and children; (4)offer community referral linkages to inmates and ex-offenders; and, (5)decrease public health and social disparities within the offender populations.

Prior to developing the model, input, suggestions and feedback was received from a number of internal and external department sources. Both qualitative and quantitative data was collected through the use of questionnaires and surveys from the Institutional and Work Release Wardens, Substance Abuse Counselors, Psychological Associates, Chaplains, and Job Placement Officers. On-site assessments with institutional staff provided for an opportunity to learn about the currently existing Pre Release Programs and other transitional services offered to inmates. Information was also obtained from faith based and community groups on the importance of offering basic and technical life skills to inmates prior to release.

Results from the data collection process yielded many common themes that have been incorporated as priorities in the Reentry Model. Some of the themes included:

1. Addictions and Recovery
2. Job, Career and Financial Skills
3. Faith, Social and Character Building Skills
4. Health Education, Screenings and Referrals
5. Family Reintegration Skills
6. Law Enforcement Issues

Institutional staff has been identified to assist with the development of the aforementioned modules. These modules have been prioritized as a vital component in the Pre Release Programs. The Pre Release Programs will be coordinated by the Institutional Designee occurring monthly over the course of two weeks. Institutional staff, state agency resources, community organizations and faith based groups have been identified to assist with the implementation of the pre release programs.

The reentry program also aims to provide transitional case management services. Transitional case management will consist of identifying an inmates basic and technical needs and linking him with targeted resources prior to his release. If an inmate's primary needs for survival are initially addressed (including food, clothing and shelter), he/she will have a greater success in obtaining a job, establishing a career and maintaining a crime free quality of life.

In future newsletters, we will provide ongoing information about the reentry program, highlight services offered by other state agencies, community organizations and faith based programs. If you would like to send newsworthy information, please send it to us.

For more information on the reentry model, please e-mail me at elana.parker@doc.alabama.gov.

Discharge Planning / Reentry Training A-Z – Part 1

Thursday, March 27, 2008 - 9:00am – 5:00pm

RSA Union Building (Montgomery) – 100 North Union Street – Suite 192

Sponsored by:

**Alabama Department of Corrections / Alabama Department of Public Health
National Minority AIDS Council**

MARCH 2008 REENTRY UPDATE CONTINUED

SELF-DIRECTED JOB SEARCH SKILLS:

In Reentry one subject that inmates need to study to be successful in securing a job even with job placement assistance is Self-Directed Job Search. A workbook is readily available from the Kilby Print shop that provides 12 sessions of skill training and self-evaluation on the subject in 127 pages. Each participant receives the workbook for \$2 to \$3 per person allowing them to write in their book, personalize it and provides information and forms to assist them when they leave prison.

The outline includes:

1. *Need to learn self-directed job search skills*
2. *Emotions, communications skills, being coached and discovering your assets, and finding a job is a full time job.*
3. *Interest Profile, job preferences, and cover letters*
4. *More on cover letters, briefs and resumes.*
5. *Where to look for a job*
6. *Being honest about being an offender and assistance from the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.*
7. *How to use the telephone to find a job*
8. *Practicing telemarketing techniques*
9. *Completing a job application*
10. *Making a good first impression*
11. *Job interview skills*
12. *And Job Interview Follow-up*

The author, Richard Holbrook, has the scoring key, the post-test, and the post test scoring key as well. Thus far, most inmates in maximum prisons start off with a score of 50% and must score an 80% in order to graduate. A certificate you can personalize and a resume program are available by email for your use with the program as well.

It is ideal for everyone to maintain his or her test scores for further research, which could be reported to a single local for compilation. This is an ADOC program all could contribute changes and improvements to.

Most will prefer to use videos you may purchase to demonstrate the skills. Video taping the interviews is excellent feedback for the participants as well. Each inmate comes out with a typed resume ready to send home, to the parole board or to perspective employers. Cover letters can be provided with the resumes as needed.

It is best to use this program in a Max camp with parole inmates within a year of parole and EOS candidates within 3 years of release to have enough participants. Level IV camps may wish to provide this program 4 hrs a week until completed and to include a 3 month list of prerelease candidates. How it is used depends upon how many inmates require your prerelease program in your institution at one time.

Skilled and trained inmates make excellent assistants in providing the program and can help in typing the resumes as well. You can judge by pre and post test scores how effective your program has been and alterations can be made in it's presentation next time as a result to improve the outcome.

The program can be ordered from the Print Shop at Kilby who can give you an estimate of the cost for the number of books you order. You can email Richard.Holbrook@doc.alabama.gov for the added material mentioned above not in the workbook.

You can feel confident that you have done your best to prepare the inmate for the job search aspect of ex-offender reentry. Purchasing the books is much cheaper than using your copier. Please keep in touch and provide ideas you have in the program's presentation and the response of your inmates. Please share your resources with me. Thanks

Richard Holbrook LPC, Psychological Associate
W.C. Holman



A MESSAGE ABOUT JAMM, Inc.

Submitted By: Karyn Knott

JAMM, Inc. is a new and positive acronym that's spreading throughout the State of Alabama, especially within the Department of Corrections. JAMM, Inc. is short for **JESUS IS THE ANSWER MENTORING MINISTRIES, Inc.**

This Program is truly helping those who are incarcerated and newly released to successfully re-enter society with a new mindset and determination to **"reach back and help a brother or sister" --- not "go back" behind bars!**

JAMM, Inc. is introducing the inmates to the life-changing power of Jesus Christ and is giving them all of the tools they need to succeed in the 'free world'. We're thankful for the support that JAMM participants are receiving as they prepare to re-enter and improve our society.

We all know that when an inmate re-offends, it affects his or her family, the victim, the victim's family, taxpayers, the community and the world! JAMM is making our world much better, **One Soul At A Time!**

JAMM has recognized the need for each ex-felon to have someone to guide them as they prepare to embark upon the greatest challenge of their lives: ... being released to live successfully in the "FREE WORLD", gainfully employed as a tax-paying, law-abiding citizen in the State of Alabama.

Transition Preparation, Life Skills and After-Care Classes, Family Ministry, Closely Monitored Transitional Housing, Mentoring Counselors and supporters are available for the participants along with Job Placement, Weekly Follow-up, AA/NA/SOA After-Care, 24-Hour Emergency Telephone Support upon release and lots of prayers from well wishers.

JAMM, Inc. is presently operating at Staton Correctional Facility. The Warden, Chaplain, Staff and employees have noticed great improvements in the lives of JAMM participants and graduates. The next six-month training course will begin in Mid-April. For additional information about JAMM, Inc., please feel free to contact Chaplain Smith or Mr. Ralph Besteder at Staton. They can be reached on 334-567-2221.



"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong—because someday in life, you will have been all of these."
George Washington Carver